



July 2014

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

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Next Meeting Dates:

General Meeting:
July 9, Fire Station 1.
Mass Casualty Incidents.
Meeting starts at 6:30 with
doors open at 6:00 PM.

Leadership Meeting:
July 23, Fire Station 1.
Meeting starts at 6:30 with
doors open at 6:00 PM.



Thunderstorms and Lightning

Fire danger levels increased to “high” as of June 16 in Jackson County. While carelessness often plays a huge role in the ignition of wildfires nature also plays its part. There are the obvious factors including rainfall, heat, winds, and relative humidity, but additionally there are storm related factors such as lightning. Thunderstorms can be very dangerous and all thunderstorms produce lightning. Other dangers are connected with thunderstorms including tornadoes, strong winds, hail, and flash flooding.

The western United States receives “dry thunderstorms” primarily meaning that rain is often not produced, but dry thunderstorms can still produce lightning. Lightning strikes continue to be one of the biggest natural causes of wildfires in addition to one of the top three storm-related killers.

There are many myths surrounding lightning related incidents that you need to be aware of including once struck there is no residual electrical charge, you have a fairly low chance of being struck (1:600,000), and the majority of deaths occur outside during summer months. When enjoying the outdoors during summer months it is important to remember precautionary safety procedures including



knowing how to react depending upon where you are if lightning strikes threaten you. If you are in a forested area seek shelter under a thick growth of small trees because lightning tends to be attracted to large pointed objects, if you are in an open space seek out a low area such as a ravine or valley, but be aware of flash flooding, and if you are on the water immediately return to land and seek appropriate shelter. Another myth to dispel is that you should lie flat on the ground. If you fear lightning is about to strike, which is often indicated by one’s hair standing up, then squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet placing your hands over your ears and your head between your knees as tightly as possible to create less surface area attraction.

Because lightning is partial to striking triangle shaped objects, trees are most likely to be struck. Additionally, lightning often strikes the same location or area more than once. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, lightning actually causes more than 24,500 fires annually. Lightning definitely attributes tremendously to ignition of the landscape in the western United States forcing mass evacuations, loss of lives and property, and imposing environmental impacts. While lightning strikes are not predictable mitigation and planning for potential impacts from lightning strikes is essential and relatively easily achievable. Be sure to have a Ready kit and a family communication plan. Always follow the precautionary recommendations as outlined above for outdoor safety and be aware of indoor lightning safety as well.

CERT NEEDS YOU

Are you interested in assisting with designing a training session? Do you have time to type a script? Are you interested in investing a few volunteer hours supporting CERT?

If so, I am looking for volunteers to fill two different tasks; anyone with the willingness can complete these tasks and if you have additional questions feel free to ask. The first task includes designing the framework for a training surrounding shelter operations. I can provide some documentation from other agencies on setting up and running a shelter to use as a starting tool, then your creativity can guide you to complete what you feel is a strong Ashland CERT model for shelter operations. The second task entails the creation of a script for each of the four basic training stations. This would be a great task for someone who has a strong opinion about the proper structure and learning components sought through the station rotations. The script is being created in conjunction with video recording the proper techniques and expectations of each station to showcase to trainees during basic training.

Fun Activities on the Horizon

Disaster Relay Games- Saturday, July 19 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Location TBD. Disaster Relay games will focus on both cooperative and competitive games to engage members in team building activities and fun challenges to build relationships among members. All are encouraged to take part in this fun event. All activities will be designed with disaster mitigation, response, and recovery as the theme. Please contact the CERT office to RSVP.

Fourth of July update—Joint Press Release APD & AF&R

As the Ashland community draws closer to the July 4th weekend, members of the Ashland Police Department and Ashland Fire and Rescue would like to remind all community members that fireworks are illegal in the City of Ashland.

The 2014 fire season is potentially going to be one of extreme danger, requiring a strong degree of precaution by all members of the community. As we have seen in recent years, a single careless moment can result in extensive damage to the community, to the surrounding natural areas, and, most importantly, can be deadly to those that have to flee the fire or attempt to contain it.

In light of the increased risk during this particularly dangerous fire season, the Ashland Police Department will take any and all enforcement action it can when confronted with illegal fireworks. Additionally, the Ashland Police Department will have additional officers on duty on July 4th to respond to calls of illegal fireworks as quickly as possible.

Fire professionals continue to encourage you to enjoy the fireworks display sponsored by the Ashland Chamber of Commerce at 10pm on July 4th over the SOU athletic fields. For information on how you can help support this entertainment, see the Chamber's website at www.ashlandchamber.com.

Remember that you can be held financially responsible for fire damage and the costs of fire suppression caused by negligent use of fireworks. Members of the community are encouraged to report any use of illegal fireworks by calling the Ashland Police Department at 541-482-5211.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ashland CERT successfully evacuated over 100 homes during the 2009 Siskiyou Fire. Are you ready to evacuate residents this summer and help them prepare their homes if they had to leave in advance of a wildfire? Ashland Fire & Rescue is hosting a training to get CERT volunteers prepared to deliver evacuation notifications and assist homeowners prepare their homes should a wildfire strike this summer. The training will cover the new Ready, Set, Go evacuation protocol, coordination with law enforcement personnel and fire commanders and putting it all together in a field exercise.

What: **Evacuation Training**

When: **July 12th from 9AM to 1PM**

Where: **Meet at AF&R Station #1,
455 Siskiyou Blvd**

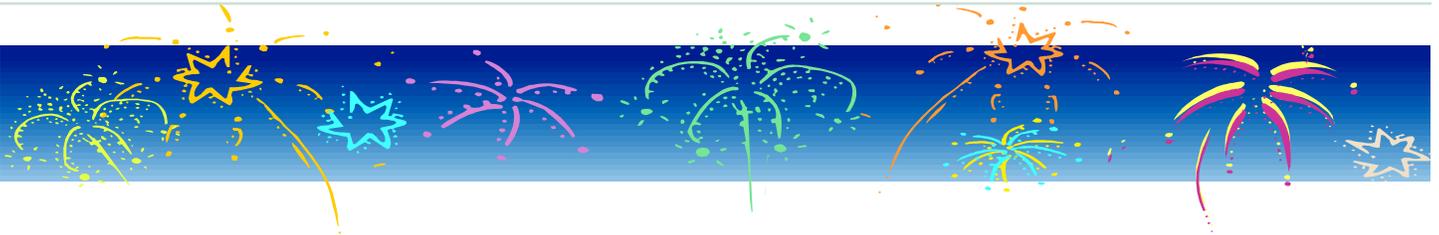
Instructed by: **Chris Chambers with guests from
the Ashland Police Department**

Psychological First Aid is an evidence-informed set of skills for assisting people in the immediate aftermath of disaster, to reduce initial distress and to foster short- and long-term healthy coping.

It is for use by first responders, incident command systems, Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, and others.

This full day training (**Saturday, November 8**) will build on CERT's Disaster Psychology module. Participants will learn to recognize acute emotional needs in survivors and will develop beginning proficiency with a range of practical interventions to use "in the field". Ellen Wilfong-Grush, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist

RSVP for events and training always appreciated.



American Heart Association HeartSaver First Aid / CPR / AED

HeartSaver First Aid, CPR, AED, is a classroom, video-based, instructor-led course that teaches students critical skills needed to respond to and manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac arrest emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives. Students learn skills such as how to treat bleeding, sprains, broken bones, shock and other first aid emergencies. This course also teaches adult CPR and AED use.

The cost for this course is \$55, which includes a student study book and card*. The class takes approximately 8 hours to complete. All fees must be prepaid prior to the class date to confirm reservation. Please register early to reserve your space.

*Upon successful completion, students will receive an American Heart Association HeartSaver First Aid, CPR, AED Course Completion Card that is valid for two years.

When: July 26, 2014

Where: Ashland Fire Station 1

Time: 9am-5pm

Cost: \$55

Registration is first-come, first-served according to when class fees are paid. Classes are typically limited to 8 people. Participants may register by mailing a check or by paying in person 8 AM - 4 PM Monday - Friday at Station 1, 455 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520. Make checks payable to City of Ashland.

For information or to register contact the
Ashland CERT Program Coordinator
541-552-2226 | cert @ ashland.or.us



CERT 2014 Calendar of Events

January 2014	February 2014	March 2014
General Meeting January 8 <i>(Cold-weather Shelter Operations)</i> Leadership Meeting January 22 <i>(Member Mission Compilation)</i> EOC TRAINING - FEBRUARY 1	General Meeting February 12 <i>(Avista~ Gas Water Heaters)</i> Emergency Food Prep & Tasting Saturday, February 8 Leadership Meeting February 26	General Meeting March 12 <i>(Preparing for Wildfire)</i> NO Leadership Meeting
April 2014	May 2014	June 2014
General Meeting April 9 <i>(Radio Communications)</i> Leadership Meeting April 23 <i>(Basic Planning)</i> Basic Training April 10-12 & 24-26	Base Inventory - May 10 Basic Graduation - General Meeting Leadership Meeting May 28 Base Bike Ride May 17 (9AM-1PM) CPR Night - May 22	Annual Phone Tree Test - June 7 Firefighter Rehab Mission Training June 29 General Meeting June 11 <i>(Safe Drinking Water)</i> Leadership Meeting June 25 <i>(Planning for 4th of July)</i>
July 2014	August 2014	September 2014
General Meeting July 9 <i>(Mass Casualty Incidents)</i> Evacuation Training—July 12 (9AM-1PM) Leadership Meeting July 23 Disaster Relay Games— July 19	General Meeting August 13 <i>(POD Training)</i> Leadership Meeting August 27 <i>(Phone Banks)</i> CPR Night—August 7	General Meeting September 10 <i>(CERT Skills Training)</i> Leadership Meeting September 24 <i>(Advanced Training Lesson)</i>
October 2014	November 2014	December 2014
Basic Training October 9-11 & 16-18 General Meeting October 8 Leadership Meeting October 22 Base Bike Ride—October 25	Disaster Psychology Advanced—Nov. 8 General Meeting— <i>Basic Graduation</i> <i>Refresher Training—November 15</i> Leadership Meeting November 19	CERT Year in Review /Awards December 10, 6:30 to 8:00 PM No Meetings Holiday Season Training Stand Down

Note: General meetings are open to the public. Doors open at 6pm. Meetings are from 6:30pm-8pm at Fire Station 1.

Ashland CERT
 455 Siskiyou Boulevard
 Ashland, OR 97520

TO: